

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
CULTURE
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3482

ANSWERED ON:26.04.2007

DISAPPEARANCE OF RARE IDOLS /ARTIFACTS

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Will the Minister of CULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether several rare idols and other artifacts of archaeological importance have disappeared from national museums and other places;
- (b) if so, the details of the cases reported during the last three years;
- (c) the number of idols/artifacts recovered out of these reported disappeared;
- (d) the reasons for non-recovery of the remaining idols/artifacts; and
- (e) the steps taken or being taken to provide adequate security at these places?

Answer

MINISTER OF THE STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TOURISM & CULTURE (SMT. AMBIKA SONI)

- (a) & (b): Details of cases of theft of idols and other artefacts during last three years reported to the Ministry of Culture are at Annexure – I.
- (c) Out of 38 idols/artefacts under Archaeological Survey of India, 6 have been recovered and out of 18 idols stolen from Patna Museum, Bihar, 17 idols have been recovered.
- (d) The cases have been handed over to the investigating agencies, including CBI and the State Police.
- (e) Security arrangements of Museums under the administrative control of Govt. of India are being constantly upgraded and strengthened.